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Xavier University Newswire

Xavier University (Cincinnati, Ohio)

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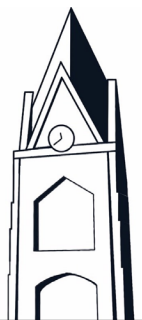
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XU grapples with ties to slavery

Gollar says the university still has work to do to reconcile its history

By TREVOR TIEMEYER
Staff Writer

NewsWire sat down with Dr. Walker Gollar, a professor in the theology department who teaches American Catholic history, to discuss Xavier's ties to slavery and the renaming of Justice Hall. Gollar has been at Xavier for almost 30 years, and his research focuses on issues related to slavery.

Q: Can you describe the research you conducted? What was its original purpose and what spurred it?

A: Back in 2016, when Georgetown University announced it was changing the names of some of its buildings because they had some connections to slavery, Father Michael Graham came to me because he knew the extent of my research. Truth of the matter is I had been very involved in those conversations with Georgetown. So, I told Graham that I knew a lot about that, and he encouraged me to study more deeply Xavier's connection to slavery. So, for five or six years now, I have focused my research on slavery. It started with (Bishop Edward) Fenwick, but Xavier's connections to slavery are much, much bigger.

Q: What do you think Xavier did well when renaming Justice Hall, and what could it have done better?

A: I guess what they did well is Xavier acknowledged that Fenwick was a slaveholder who did not deserve to have his name on the building. I agree with that decision, and I think it was a good thing. But what bothers me more is what Xavier did not do, especially the folks who were on the committees to rename the building... They haven't taken the time to learn the names of the people who were enslaved and what their stories were.

As one person on the committee said to me, "Fenwick was a slaveholder. What else do we need to know?" To dismiss the man simply because he was a slaveholder and (to not) take the time to explore the broader story... is an egregious error, an embarrassment really... We took the name off the building, but there is no permanent display of who Fenwick was, or even why we took the name off the building. There is still no recognition of who the enslaved people were. There is also no broader exploration of Xavier's bigger connections to racism and slavery.

Q: What needs to be done to rectify the renaming of Justice Hall?

A: They first need to find a way to permanently tell the story. That might mean empowering me or someone else to update the LibGuide, that might mean making a plaque. Secondly, we need to listen more to voices of the oppressed. A colleague of mine here at Xavier, a Black man, said to me, where he grew up in Cincinnati, Justice Hall meant the police department. So, he is not at all thrilled with the fact that we named this building a police department. What this Black colleague of mine would say is that Xavier has gone backwards.

Also, justice is not a Jesuit value. We have taken his name off the building, made him pay for the fact that he was a slaveholder, so in that way it fits but it is not a Jesuit value. Jesuits believe in social justice; slavery was not something that individual people did as a sinful act, and we should punish those specific people... The thing that really frightens me is that by taking the name off the building, people might get the impression that Xavier has now solved its problem with racism. When, in fact, all it's done is punished one person... Xavier has not



Photo courtesy of Xavier University via Facebook

At the start of the fall semester, Xavier officially changed the name of Fenwick Hall to Justice Hall. Dr. Walker Gollar wonders if this change was enough to educate Xavier on its historical ties to slavery.

even begun to embrace the questions of social justice regarding race disparity. So, we need to do a lot more than just take the name off the building. We need to listen, we need to do more homework (and) we need to broaden the scope. I fear in some ways renaming the building Justice Hall has been a step back.

Q: What actions can Xavier take to prevent these mistakes from happening again?

A: I think that, from what I know of the process, it was done by a few people who really were not engaged in conversation with other people. I never talked with them, even though I have spent seven years of my life looking at this stuff. So, I think in the future we need to have broader discussion where we honor all of the voices, including that colleague of mine who thinks Justice Hall is now the police department, and the scholars who have done the work, and any other students who might feel oppressed by Xavier's racist environment.

Q: What else does Xavier need to do to continue being anti-racist and confront its entanglements with slavery?

A: Xavier needs to honestly face the truth of its history. Xavier needs to recognize — as do all Catholic insti-

tutions of higher learning — that slavery was a part of the American Catholic experience from the very beginning. Jesuits were selling slaves from the get-go... not just in 1838, when the Jesuits sold 272 slaves at Georgetown. At one point, Fenwick sold some of his enslaved people down in Kentucky so he could put a roof on his Cincinnati cathedral. These are the types of brutally honest facts that Xavier and Georgetown and the Catholic community in general need to honestly tell.

Q: What is your opinion on the current state of the Fenwick Hall LibGuide?

A: The LibGuide was a platform for sharing some early information concerning Xavier's historical connection to slavery. I think it has served the campus pretty well... But honestly, I have not touched it in years, and it is incredibly outdated. I have done so much more in recent years than what's there. I just don't have the time to really update it, in terms of the scholarship on this same topic.

Q: What do you believe needs to happen with the LibGuide?

A: It just needs to be updated with more recent information. The LibGuide, for example, identifies that Fenwick was a slaveholder, and it gives some good resources on that...

He was not only a slaveholder, but he also sold slaves. He was a slave trader, sometimes to further his Catholic aspirations; none of that is on the LibGuide. I have discovered much about the individual people that Fenwick enslaved. I know their names, I know what they did, I know how they survived slavery (and) I even identified people alive today who are descendants of people Fenwick enslaved. Xavier has much stronger connections to slavery that go much beyond Fenwick and very little of that is even hinted at on the LibGuide.

Q: Do you have any additional comments or thoughts about the renaming of Justice Hall or Xavier's ties to slavery?

A: This is hard work that takes a lot of time. I have been working on this particular topic for six years now, and I am just about finished with a book, but it is not even finished yet. I think with Father Graham retiring, there was a sense of urgency that we needed to deal with this problem and not pass it on to the next president. And I get that, but I think they acted too soon... Xavier needs to be a little more patient. But I do think Xavier has the chance to heal some of its racial wounds if it dares to patiently tell its story.

In this year's Basketball Edition...

Sports, Page 6

Xavier introduces two new transfers: big man Jack Nunge and wing Jerome Hunter.



Sports, Page 8

The *NewsWire* staff gives their predictions for the 2021-22 men's basketball season.



Sports, Page 9

Former Muskie forward Naji Marshall looks to boost his stats this season with the Pelicans.








Sports, Page 11

Sports Editor Joe Clark ranks the Big East mascots... and No. 1 is exactly who you think.



From Oxford to Xavier, Inczauskis brings perspective of the world to campus

“Fall” into the end of the semester with these events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				11 Newswire Weekly Meeting, Clock Tower Lounge, 7 p.m.	12 First Gen Celebration Lunch, Student Success Center, 11:30 a.m.	13 Total Body Beat, Health United Building (HUB) 10:30 a.m.
14 <i>Lysistrata,</i> GSC Theatre, 2 p.m.	15 S'mores on the Yard, EmpowerXU, 7 p.m.	16 Planksgiving Fitness Challenge, HUB, 2 p.m.	17 Study Tables, G.O.A.L., GSC 330, 8 p.m.	18 Trans Day of Remembrance, LGBTQ+Alliance, Husman Stage, 2 p.m.	19 ALL RESIDENCE HALLS CLOSE 6 p.m.	20 Men's Swimming at Cleveland State 9 a.m.
21 Men's Basketball v. Norfolk State, Cintas Center, noon	22	23	24 Women's Basketball at Wright State, 2 p.m.	25 Happy Thanksgiving! 	26 Men's Basketball Preseason NIT, 7/9:30 p.m.	27 Women's Volleyball Big East Championship, TBD
Remote Classes						

Facebook rebrands amid criticism

Facebook pivots to the “metaverse” after the release of the Facebook Papers

BY IVY LEWIS AND SOPHIE BOULTER
Staff Writer and World News Editor

The Facebook company is changing its name to “Meta” following the release of the Facebook Papers.

The “metaverse” is a virtual world community in which individuals can work, eat and play. This community combines virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) to create an immersive digital universe.

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg announced these changes during Facebook Connect, a VR and AR conference.

“I’ve been thinking a lot about our identity as we begin this next chapter. Facebook is one of the most used products in the history of the world,” Zuckerberg said at the conference.

“I used to study classics, and the word ‘meta’ comes from the Greek word meaning ‘beyond.’ For me, it symbolizes that there is always more to build, and there is always a next chapter to the story,” he said.

The company will also change the sign in front of its California headquarters from a blue “thumbs-up” to a blue infinity sign.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.com
Facebook defends its rebranding choice as a necessary pivot to new technologies, including VR and AR. Critics accuse Facebook of using the rebrand as a way to distract from criticism, such as the Facebook Paper allegations.

“It is time for us to adopt a new company brand... we have a new North Star to help bring the metaverse to life, and we have a new name that reflects the full breadth of what we do,” Zuckerberg said.

The branding change comes on the heels of the release of the Facebook Papers, a cache of classified documents detailing the inner workings of the company, leaked by former product manager Frances Haugen.

The leaked documents suggest that company officials disregarded misinfor-

mation and biased content on the platform, particularly following the 2016 presidential election. The papers also allege that extremist content was permitted from human trafficking groups and White supremacist organizations.

In her testimony, Haugen stated that she left her position as product manager when she determined the company was harming vulnerable communities through inaction and permissive policies.

“I did what I thought was necessary to save the lives of people, especially in the global

South, who I think are being endangered by Facebook’s prioritization of profits over people,” Haugen stated in an interview with the Guardian.

Haugen and other top officials also testified before Congress, saying that the company abets government corruption and violence through its services.

They noted the company has inconsistent safety controls, which can be used by hate groups and non-governmental organizations seeking to promote illegal content.

Critics allege that Face-

book officials were aware that armed groups in Ethiopia were communicating with and recruiting members via the platform, but decided not to remove them.

Zuckerberg denied the allegations detailed in the Facebook Papers and that Facebook is hiding information from investors and the public.

“If we wanted to hide our results, why would we have established an industry-leading standard for transparency and reporting on what we’re doing?” Zuckerberg asked.

Critics of Facebook argue that the rebranding and name change do not detract from the harm the company has caused.

“Changing their name doesn’t change reality: Facebook is destroying our democracy and is the world’s leading peddler of disinformation and hate,” The Real Facebook Oversight Board, a watchdog organization dedicated to monitoring the company’s actions, said.

“Their meaningless name change should not distract from the investigation, regulation and real, independent oversight needed to hold Facebook accountable.”

The investigation into the Facebook Papers is expected to continue as Congress reviews the leaked documents.

Council passes corruption reform

BY MARTY DUBECKY
Staff Writer

The Cincinnati City Council unanimously approved two reforms tackling corruption last week, prompted by three separate indictments of councilmembers in 2020.

The first reform bars councilmembers from taking campaign contributions from individuals with financial interests in city business while that business is pending before the council.

The second reform creates a new “ethics czar” position, which is independent of the council. This individual will probe ethics violation complaints and manage a confidential whistleblower hotline.

Questions continue to swirl regarding who the ethics czar will be or when they will be appointed. While nine councilmembers were elected in the Nov. 2 election, the ethics czar is an appointed official and not a position voted for by the citizens of Cincinnati.

Senior Philosophy, Politics and the Public and political science major Lizzy Parker expressed concerns regarding the appointment of an ethics czar.

“One thing that is questionable is how the ethics czar will

be chosen to accurately and trustworthily prevent corruption among councilmembers... How will Cincinnatians fully trust this said ‘third party’ in actually stopping corruption?” she asked.

In 2020, councilmembers Tamaya Dennard, Jeff Pastor and P.G. Sittenfield were arrested on counts of corruption.

Dennard was arrested on Feb. 25 for charges of wire fraud, attempted extortion and bribery. She pleaded guilty to wire fraud, and the other charges were dropped. Dennard was ordered to pay a \$15,000 money judgment after admitting to accepting \$15,000 in exchange for her votes at City Hall and will serve 18 months in jail.

Pastor and Sittenfield have pleaded not guilty and are still awaiting further court proceedings. According to the allegations against Pastor and Sittenfield, both men sold votes in exchange for money.

With both cases still pending, Pastor and Sittenfield have been suspended from office. The suspension does not bar the men from receiving city council benefits and paychecks.

Xavier’s Governmental Relations Director Sean Comer

explained that all 35 candidates who ran for one of the nine available spots on the City Council ran on an anti-corruption platform, and the present councilmembers are also pushing for a strict anti-corruption culture.

“Everybody’s saying largely the same thing... It’s not like you’re running against a corrupt set of people. So, I think what you actually see is everybody’s running on anti-corruption,” he said.

Comer also expressed doubts that these reforms would substantively combat corruption in the city.

“People are fallible. We elect people. And that’s the system we have, and I’m not sure I want a different system where we don’t choose who gets to be in charge,” he said. “We have to have people who are going to make good decisions, people who are trustworthy.”

Parker agreed with Comer’s assessment but expressed some optimism in the reforms.

“I too do not think that these changes will completely wipe out corruption. However, I think that these reforms are a positive sign that future corruption can hopefully be largely curbed from occurring,” she said.

The Lighter Side

Meowderer, masculinity, micro-marches

- Meowderer: A defendant dubbed “Cat Man,” who faces murder charges, was expelled from the courtroom for meowing too much during his trial (Oct. 26).
- Activists held a “small dong march” in California to help end the “shame” around tiny penises. Sources say that the size of the protest doesn’t matter (Nov. 1).
- Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., stated that feminism has driven men away from masculinity, leaving them to seek refuge in “pornography and video games.” Podcaster Jason Kander responded, “If Josh Hawley is an expert on masculinity, then I’d like to take a few minutes to share my thoughts on quantum physics” (Nov. 1).
- Typical Texans: A Texas woman was arrested for pointing a gun at a 7-year-old trick-or-treater (Nov. 1).
- Singapore has banned a book on censorship, leaving some to wonder if the government’s censors have also banned school lessons on irony (Nov. 1).



Photo courtesy of flickr.com
Hawley panned feminism, pornography and video games as unmanly.

What are we fighting for if not this?

The recent “vandalism” done to the pro-life display outside Bellarmine and the following response demonstrated a disgusting hypocrisy and double standard by the university and XUPD.

The display, which read “PRO-WOMAN, PRO-LIFE,” was surrounded by signs displaying pro-choice messages and protests. The pro-life letters were taken down, and eventually some were stolen to make the message read, “PRO-MAN, PRO-LIE.”

I, for one, appreciate the creativity.

XUPD responded quickly to every incident. They even identified the students who stole the signs and returned them to the organization responsible for the display.

XUPD responds more effectively to some supposed “vandalism” to a pro-life display than they do to actual acts of racism and bigotry by far-right groups. I mean, the hypocrisy is so loud it’s screaming in our faces. It’s obvious now what their priorities are: shaming and re-

stricting the rights of women who have abortions instead of protecting and ensuring the safety of students and people of color.

Displays like this go up every year. Pro-life speakers address crowds of students to promote their views.

And I honestly don’t want to hear it. I’m so sick of hearing it. I want to own my body. I want to be the one who decides what can happen to it and what can’t happen to it.

These pro-life voices don’t support my life or the lives of women who don’t want to be pregnant. They support a clump of cells within our bodies. They want that clump of cells to have more rights than we do. That is, until that clump of cells is born Black, Hispanic, Muslim, gay, transgender or anything outside their prescribed set of values: their White, Christian values.

This vandalism isn’t vandalism. It’s the long-suppressed pro-choice voices on campus finally saying, “Enough is enough.” That display, that message, isn’t pro-woman. It’s the complete

opposite.

I am a woman. And I am angry. I’m furious. I want to raise hell and burn everything down. I want to scream and scream and scream until they all know that I am serious, that I mean it.

I know I’m not supposed to be angry. We’re not supposed to be angry.

But, god, what else can we be?

I keep asking what belongs to us. I keep writing this story. I’ve written it a hundred times, and it never seems to go out of style. I’m sure people are tired of reading it. I’m tired of writing it, but I can’t stop because nothing has changed.

There was a pro-life display vandalized by students. These students are not allowed to voice their pro-choice opinions. Apparently, this vandalism is an “attack on the pro-life values of our Jesuit, Catholic university.” Apparently, it is a sign of a “broken culture.”

It is a broken culture. One that favors the rights of the unborn over the rights of those who carry them.

I thought the Jesuits were supposed to be open-minded and understanding. But this view is just as close-minded and misogynistic as anyone else.

These views dehumanize us. They vilify us. What else can we do except tear them down?

What else are we fighting for, if not this?

And I don’t care. I don’t care that the things I write alienate and anger people. I’m not trying to please anybody. I’m trying to fight, and I’m sick of being civil.

Multiple acts of racism have occurred over my three semesters of school, and XUPD and the university don’t seem to care. XUPD responded quickly and decisively to the “pro-life” vandalism, but the same can’t be said for actual acts of hatred and fear-mongering.

gery. The university sent out a message to the student body to not post about these attacks — to keep it internal. To keep it quiet. To keep it hidden.

Exactly what kind of “values” are we trying to teach?

Not wanting to be pregnant, not wanting to give birth — these are not selfish desires. Our bodies are the only things we ever truly own. They are not public property. They do not belong to the Conservative right. They do not belong to any religion. They do not belong to the pro-life.

They belong to us. And I will keep writing this story until people finally start to believe it.



Grace Hamilton is a sophomore political science major. She is a member of *News-wire’s* Breaking News Response team from Akron, Ohio.

Dear SAC, please stop wasting money

Hello Student Activities Council (SAC) friends,

I have had a problem with your extravagant spending recently and am disappointed that my student activities fees are being misused. It seems as though every time I walk around campus, there is an inflatable play structure that no one is using, only serving to blow money into the wind.

The misallocation of funds should concern all students. We pay student activity fees and deserve to have events that people want to attend. Additionally, students care about having a diverse set of events that represent their communities.

SAC events have been both boring and expensive. Multiple times during the early part of the semester, I have walked by bounce

houses that were just not being used by students. While I will admit that I am prone to getting in some bounce house action when the time is right, 3 p.m. on a Wednesday is not that time.

I also remember seeing a zipline as I walked out of philosophy class. According to Cincinnati inflatables, it cost around \$4,000–5,000 to rent out a zipline for the day. While I’m sure that some people had a lot of fun during the experience, a single ride on a zipline from Bellarmine Chapel to Husman Hall is not going to be the highlight of a college student’s career.

What the problem boils down to is that SAC is given a blank check every time club funding requests are approved by the Student Government Association (SGA)

toward the end of the spring semester. Because the first-years and sophomores who fill the Senate have little context on what is going on with club budgeting, it ultimately falls on Dustin Lewis, the advisor for the SGA Senate, to make the decisions about how student activities fees are allocated to clubs. While I respect Lewis’ judgment as an administrator, he tends to keep the status quo in place so it doesn’t seem like he’s making a big decision for the senators who were “elected.”

But the status quo is not working. We need to start asking ourselves how our student activities fees are allocated and what type of communities we want to empower on campus. While SAC is blowing money on free concerts, bouncy castles and ziplines, leaders of

minority-focused clubs have been complaining for years about not getting as many resources as they need to be as active as they would like.

Funding for student activities creates inequality because the more fun and engaging clubs don’t get the resources that SAC monopolizes. Clubs like HOLA, Alliance and EmpowerXU would be able to use that money in much more inclusive, creative and fun ways. I believe that most students, including myself, are more interested in meeting cool people at the Crafts and Tacos night with HOLA than spending two minutes of their life going down a zipline.

I believe that SAC works best when it orients itself as a service organization, providing a boost in labor

and money to help different clubs put on fun events. Every year, SAC is funded a very large sum. It is time to rethink how that is spent.

So, please reconsider how student activities fees are allocated to the different clubs, and stop spending money on frivolous things.



Joseph Cotton is a senior Philosophy, Politics and the Public and economics double major. He is the Education & Enrichment Coordinator for *News-wire* from Dearborn, Mich.

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The *Xavier Newswire* is committed to reporting the news, as well as explaining its significance to readers. In addition, through publishing opposing viewpoints and opinions, the *Newswire* hopes to foster a dialogue on campus and among students, faculty and staff.

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House Atreides slays these Muskies

XU students react positively to Denis Villeneuve’s blockbuster sci-fi flick, Dune

BY TESS DANKOSKI
Staff Writer

The much-awaited *Dune* was released for theater viewing on Oct. 22.

The movie is based on the 1965 science fiction novel of the same name written by Frank Herbert. There are a total of six books in the series.

The story of *Dune* follows the intergalactic generational war between two political houses. It focuses on Paul Atreides (played by Timothée Chalamet) the 15-year-old son of Duke Leto Atreides, who struggles to find his identity in the universe. Through this, he discovers his supernatural call to leadership.

Much of the excitement surrounding *Dune* was the casting, with Timothée Chalamet, Zendaya, Oscar Isaac, Jason Momoa and many other big names filling the screen.

“The casting was excellent,” Matthew Liskai, first-year biology major, said after seeing the movie in theaters. As someone who has read the book and is a big fan of the



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Denis Villeneuve’s *Dune* was a smash hit for many Muskies, especially those who enjoyed Frank Herbert’s 1965 novel.

story, his overall opinion of director Denis Villeneuve’s casting choices was positive.

As Chalamet’s career and fan base are rapidly growing, a large portion of the buzz for this movie surrounds his on-screen presence.

However, Liskai found that

a very emotional and vulnerable person who deals with overpowering grief and fear.

Liskai partially expected her character to be rewritten to embody the strong-willed woman that is seen in many modern movies to counteract the traditional portrayal of women. However, he believed her character development was not compromised in order to fit this standard.

“She was very vulnerable throughout the whole movie, which I enjoyed,” he said.

Another notable strong-point of the movie was its scoring.

“The music was astounding. First of all, it was Hans Zimmer, how could it not be?” first-year music major Sara Wentzel said.

Zimmer, who has scored many other famous action movies such as *Inception* and *Interstellar*, often uses a combination of non-traditional orchestral sounds along with strong bass to signify coming danger.

“For example, (during a specific scene), he uses (an on-screen) noise along with vio-

lins in the background just to emphasize that something’s coming,” Wentzel said.

One criticism for *Dune*, which is common amongst many sci-fi stories, is that the plot was hard to follow for those who were not previously familiar with the story.

“If I had never read the book before, the movie would be super confusing to walk into, which I think it was for a lot of people,” Liskai agreed. The books spend much more time laying out the setting than the movie does.

“I feel like I caught on about a half an hour in,” Wentzel said, as someone who has never read the book.

Much of the appeal was not simply the plot, but also the incredible visuals that came with it.

“I liked the movie because of its visuals, mostly, not its retelling of the story,” Liskai said.

Dune ends on somewhat of a cliff-hanger, hinting at the plot to come and setting up the next movie in the series, which is scheduled to be released October 2023.

Adele encourages fans to go “Easy On Me”

BY OLIVIA VALKNER AND CAROLINE PALERMO
Staff Writers

Adele has made a comeback with the release of her new single “Easy On Me” and its accompanying music video.

This is the lead single for her upcoming album coming out later this month. The song and accompanying music video feel like a warm hug from the singer’s vulnerable yet powerful voice.

The release of the single truly snuck up on us, because we forgot that Adele lives in London and neglected to consider the possibility of her releasing it in London time.

It was a real debate if we should wait until Friday morning to blast her new song or stay up until midnight to listen to Adele’s dynamic voice. In a moment of fact-checking, however, we discovered that this decision had already been made by Adele — because the

single had been released in the United States 76 minutes prior. Yay, time zones!

At the moment of our discovery, we knew we had to scramble to make our music video premier special. We immediately pulled up the music video, threw a bag of Target popcorn in the microwave and turned off the lights in preparation for the beginning of our sad girl autumn.

And as the final scene faded, we knew there was only one logical thing to do: Watch it again.

The music video features Adele singing the powerfully insightful ballad to herself as she drives away from the same house featured in “Hello.” In this video, however, she’s moving out of it.

On her drive, she passes a newly-wedded couple, a truck filled with antique furniture and sheet music and a family in a roadside trailer celebrating the holidays. To each of

these passersby, Adele smiles and waves as they drive away from her.

The music video showcases Adele moving on to the next phase of her life in a more straightforward way; her driving away mirrors her explanation in the second verse of why her past relationship failed.

It feels as though the song is a personal reminder to go easy on herself. She is not only begging the world around her to be patient with her and her emotions but also reminding herself that she must do the same.

Simply put, the song is about treating yourself with love while moving on and hoping that the world can allow you to do the same.

The single comes at the most perfect time during the semester: when things start piling up and you are looking at the mountain of work that you have ahead of you before finals. While you might have the urge to yell “Go easy on me” at your professors, we encourage you to speak those words to yourself first and foremost.

She has effectively recaptured the hearts of all and truly left us sitting in a puddle of tears. Her voice holds so much power and wist, and it is clearly heard every time she opens her mouth.

From these music aficionados to everyone else, you already know that we will be playing this song on repeat all autumn long.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Adele’s latest single, “Easy On Me,” impresses two of our staff writers, who encourage readers to go easy on themselves this fall.



A&E SINGLES

BY JOE CLARK
Sports Editor

- Eminem and Jennifer Lopez surprised fans by performing with LL Cool J at the Rock N’ Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony (Oct. 30).
- The Department of Justice sued Penguin Random House to block them from acquiring major literary firm Simon & Schuster (Nov. 2).
- Kim Kardashian and Pete Davidson were spotted eating dinner in Staten Island, sparking further rumors that the two are an item (Nov. 2).
- Jay-Z gained two million followers less than 24 hours after joining Instagram (Nov. 3).
- A Donkey Kong movie starring Seth Rogen is in development (Nov. 3).

Men's hoops non-conference schedule outlook

2021-22
Schedule

Big East opponents in bold>

Date	Opponent
11/9	Niagara
11/12	Kent State
11/18	Ohio State
11/21	Norfolk State
Preseason NIT Tip-Off	
11/24	Iowa State
11/26	Memphis/Virginia Tech
12/1	Central Michigan
12/5	at Oklahoma State
12/8	Ball State
12/11	Cincinnati
12/15	Morehead State
12/18	Marquette
12/21	at Villanova
12/28	Connecticut
1/4	at Georgetown
1/7	at Butler
1/12	Villanova
1/15	Creighton
1/19	at DePaul
1/23	at Marquette
1/26	Providence
1/29	at Creighton
2/2	Butler
2/5	DePaul
2/9	at Seton Hall
2/16	St. John's
2/19	at Connecticut
2/23	at Providence
2/26	Seton Hall
3/2	at St. John's
3/5	Georgetown

BY GRADY BORIS
Staff Writer

Xavier's non-conference lineup is chock-full of tough and exciting matchups to look forward to. The Musketeers have 11 non-conference games slated for the 2021-22 season, 8 of which will be hosted at home in the Cintas Center.

The first non-conference will be Nov. 9 at home against Niagara, which will also serve as the home-opener for the Musketeers.

A few days later on Nov. 12, Kent State will be in Cincinnati to square off against Xavier.

Last season, Kent State was able to post an impressive record of 15-8, ending their season on a disappointing loss to Ohio University in the Mid-American Conference Tournament 85-63. Despite the lackluster end to the season, they still are not a team to overlook.

Nov. 18 is the game that'll prove to be the biggest test in the early season for the Musketeers against Ohio State for the Gavitt Games matchups. The Buckeyes are coming off a heartbreaking



Newswire photo by Desmond Fischer

Guard Dwon Odom will look to take a step forward in his sophomore season and help Xavier have a strong non-conference showing.

loss in the first round of the NCAA Tournament to the 15th seed Oral Roberts.

The Buckeyes are 8-8-4 against Xavier, with both schools looking to make up for a disappointing 2020-21 campaign. Ohio State will feature one of the best players in the country in E.J. Liddell, who will be a player Xavier has to focus on if they want to win.

Norfolk State is up next on Nov. 21, and the Spartans are coming off an NCAA Tournament appearance and shouldn't be taken lightly.

The week of Thanksgiving,

the Musketeers will participate in the NIT Tip-Off tournament at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

Other than Xavier, Virginia Tech, Iowa State, and Memphis will partake in the tournament. Xavier will play Iowa State that Wednesday, and if they win they'll play the winner of the Virginia Tech-Memphis game. A loss will pit the Musketeers up against the loser of that matchup.

Both Virginia Tech and Memphis are talented teams, but Memphis has more buzz due to the additions of five-

star freshmen Jalen Duren and Emoni Bates, as well as transfer Earl Timberlake.

Following Thanksgiving weekend, the Musketeers host Central Michigan on Dec. 1. Xavier hasn't played the Chippewas since 1997.

On Dec. 5, they'll face off against Oklahoma State in the Big East v. Big 12 Battle, offering another challenge for Xavier in the form of a team that was not only a participant in last year's NCAA Tournament, but also returns talented junior guard Avery Anderson and senior Isaac Likekele.

After the Big East-Big 12 Battle, Xavier plays Ball State on Dec. 8, in the precursor to the Crosstown Shootout on Dec.11.

Xavier is coming off back-to-back shootout wins, but the Bearcats will be motivated under new Head Coach Wes Miller, who left UNC-Greensboro to take over in Clifton.

The final non-conference game will be a home game against Morehead State on Dec. 15 before the Musketeers begin Big East play against Marquette the following Saturday.

Xavier welcomes two transfers to team

BY LUKE SERVELLO
Staff Writer

The transfer portal has become a key piece of the college basketball landscape, especially in recent years as rule changes have allowed players to immediately become eligible upon transfer.

Xavier was impacted by transfers out this offseason, with Jason Carter, C.J. Wilcher and Daniel Ramsey all leaving the program.

However, Xavier also brought two transfers into the program in former Iowa big man Jack Nunge and former Indiana wing Jerome Hunter.

Nunge brings a towering presence to this Xavier team, listed at seven feet and

245 pounds. Nunge averaged 7.1 points and 5.3 rebounds per game last year for the Hawkeyes.

Nunge will bring size and toughness to this Xavier squad and will most likely see minutes at both power forward and center.

He played behind Luka Garza at Iowa — one of the best players in the country last season, and still made his presence felt.

Against Ohio State on Feb. 4, Nunge put up 19 points and six rebounds, as well as 19 points, a career-high 11 rebounds, and six assists in a win against Michigan State.

Nunge suffered a knee injury towards the end of last season, but he's fully cleared

and will be ready to go when the Musketeers take on Niagara on Nov. 9.

With Zach Freemantle out at least one month to start this season, Nunge will be an important piece and will likely start. When Freemantle returns, Nunge could remain the starter at center or become a valuable option off the bench.

Xavier's other transfer is forward Jerome Hunter, who spent the last two seasons at Indiana.

Hunter averaged 6.3 points and three rebounds per game while playing 19.6 minutes per game. Hunter is a wing who will likely see minutes at shooting guard, small forward and power forward for

Xavier this season.

His versatility will be a major plus for the Musketeers, and it wouldn't be surprising to see him slot in as the starting power forward with Nunge starting at center while Freemantle is out.

He also provides valuable depth behind Colby Jones and Nate Johnson on the wing, and his defensive versatility will allow the Musketeers to experiment with different lineups early in the season. The improved depth provided by Nunge and Hunter will be important for Xavier early on.

Nunge and Hunter are both big-time additions for this Xavier roster. It's likely that both will see significant minutes.

2021-22 Men's Team Roster						
Number	Name	Year	Position	Height	Hometown	Coaching Staff
0	Elijah Tucker	Freshman	Forward	6'7"	Canton, Ga.	Head Coach: Travis Steele (Fourth season)
1	Paul Scruggs	Senior	Guard	6'4"	Indianapolis	
3	Colby Jones	Sophomore	Guard	6'6"	Birmingham, Ala.	
4	Cesare Edwards	Freshman	Forward	6'9"	Hartsville, S.C.	Associate Head Coach: Jonas Hayes
5	Adam Kunkel	Senior	Guard	6'4"	Hebron, Ky.	
10	Nate Johnson	Senior	Guard	6'4"	Miami	
11	Dwon Odom	Sophomore	Guard	6'2"	Alpharetta, Ga.	Assistant Coach: Dante Jackson
12	Zak Swetye	Senior	Guard	6'1"	Darien, Conn.	
14	Ben Stanley	Senior	Forward	6'6"	Baltimore	
15	KyKy Tandy	Junior	Guard	6'2"	Hopkinsville, Ky.	Assistant Coach: Danny Peters
20	Ramon Singh	Senior	Guard	6'4"	Sydney, Australia	
21	Jerome Hunter	Junior	Forward	6'8"	Columbus, Ohio	
22	Dieonte Miles	Sophomore	Forward	6'11"	Walton, Ky.	Associate Athletic Director for Basketball Administration: Mario Mercurio
24	Jack Nunge	Junior	Forward	7'0"	Newburgh, Ind.	
25	Spencer Cody	Senior	Guard	5'11"	Chicago	
32	Zach Freemantle	Junior	Forward	6'9"	Teaneck, N.J.	Director of Recruiting: Jordan Brooks

Women’s basketball non-conference preview

BY JAKE GEIGER
Staff Writer

After few non-conference games last season, the women’s basketball team is back to a normal schedule. some of the bigger matchups before Xavier heads into Big East play.

Xavier will open against the Memphis of the American Athletic Conference to start their 2021 campaign on Nov. 9 at 7 p.m.

Memphis hired first-year Head Coach Katrina Merriweather from Wright State. The Tigers brought in six transfers, featuring Wright State’s Emani Jefferson and Tyler Frierson. Frierson was named to the Horizon All-Conference third team last season.

The Tigers are coming off a down season at 4-15, so this could be a winnable game for the Musketeers.

Xavier will then travel to Salt Lake City, Utah to face the Utah Utes. The Utes were 12-13 overall in the Pac-12 Conference.

The Utes will return Pac-12 honorable mentions Kemery Martin and Brynna Maxwell. Maxwell and Martin



Newswire photo by Desmond Fischer

Junior Kae Satterfield averaged 9.2 points and 5.9 rebounds per game for the Musketeers last season, and she’ll be a key player this season.

make up their starting backcourt and will be the driving force if they succeed. The Utes were also picked to finish 10th in the Pac-12 Conference preseason poll. Both of these high-level teams will be great challenges for Xavier. Xavier won their last game against Utah 70-63 in Head Coach Melanie Moore’s first game at Xavier.

Xavier will follow these two games with matchups against the Miami (Ohio)Redhawks and the Valparaiso Beacons. Both teams were below .500 in their 2020 campaigns.

Then, the Muskies will

have a short trip to Dayton, Ohio to face the Wright State Terriers. Wright State finished 19-8 overall and 15-5 in the Horizon League conference. Wright State won their conference championship and defeated fourth-seeded Arkansas in the NCAA Tournament 66-62.

They eventually lost in the second round to fifth-seeded Missouri State 64-39. Wright State is picked to finish seventh in the Horizon League preseason poll after losing their head coach to Memphis.

Following this game, the Musketeers have a quick turn-

around to face Eastern Kentucky. Following two conference games, Xavier closes out their non-conference slate at home against Niagara, at Cincinnati and at home against Southeast Missouri.

Niagara and Southeast Missouri should both be winnable games for the Musketeers. They’ll look to get revenge against Cincinnati after falling 85-78 in their last matchup.

Xavier was picked 10th out of 11 teams in the Big East Conference preseason poll. They return two of their top three scorers in sophomore guard Nia Clark and junior guard Kae Satterfield.

Redshirt junior forward Ayanna Townsend also returned and should be a crucial piece to the rotation, along with freshman Kaybriana Hallman.

A hot start in non-conference games is essential for Xavier to build momentum heading into Big East play, and the Musketeers surely have a good chance of pulling out some wins.

A good early start could also help the Musketeers build chemistry with so much roster turnover heading into the season.

Musketeers add seven newcomers

BY JOE LAURICH
Staff Writer

The Xavier women’s basketball team brought in three freshman recruits to the 2021-22 team, including a top-50 recruit in Kaybriana Hallman, alongside guard Kaysia Woods and guard/forward Aanaya Harris.

In addition, the team took advantage of transfers, bringing in Shaila Beeler, Taylor Smith, Mikayla Hayes and Shelby Calhoun.

Hallman was ranked 46th in the country by ESPN, and the four-star recruit nearly averaged a double-double her junior year of high school. She put up 12 points and 9.4 rebounds to go along with five blocks per game while leading her team to a 19-4 record. Hallman hails from Grand

Rapids, Mich.

“She’s a natural with everything she does,” Hallman’s high school coach Eric Large said. “On the offensive side, she has a beautiful touch when it comes to shooting the ball. She defends the ball very well. She has had three triple doubles this year with blocked shots. She runs the floor like a gazelle at 6-foot-3,” he told MLive after she committed to Xavier in February 2020.

Woods, from Lincoln, Neb., was a four-time all-league player in high school. She was a 1,000-point scorer and averaged 18.2 points and 6.5 rebounds per game as a senior. She was teammates with fellow freshman Aanaya Harris on the Team Factory American Amateur Union team her junior year.

Harris was an all-state player as a junior who averaged 14.7 points, 5.6 rebounds and 2.7 assists per game her junior year, when she was named the third-best player in Nebraska.

Junior guard Shaila Beeler comes to Xavier by way of Vincennes University, where she transferred to after starting her career at Indiana University. She didn’t see any game action in her time with the Hoosiers, but she was a three-star recruit out of high school.

Smith, a senior guard, played 82 games in her career at Ole Miss, averaging four points and two assists a game while also contributing 52 steals defensively.

Grauate center Hayes is also on her third school after starting her career at the

University of Florida before transferring to Clemson. At Florida, she averaged two points per game and 1.9 rebounds per game; she then averaged 2.7 points per game and 2.6 rebounds per game at Clemson. She’ll look to provide rebounding for Xavier.

Calhoun, a guard, comes to Xavier by way of Virginia Tech. Now a sophomore, she played in four games for the Hokies her freshman season, scoring three points while adding four rebounds and two steals total.

She’ll compete for minutes in a crowded Musketeers backcourt that also features redshirt sophomore Nia Clark and junior Kae Satterfield, who each saw significant minutes for the Musketeers last season.

2021-22 Schedule

Big East opponents in bold

Date	Opponent
11/9	at Memphis
11/13	at Utah
11/17	Miami (OH)
11/21	Valparaiso
11/24	at Wright State
11/27	at Eastern Kentucky
12/3	at Marquette
12/5	at DePaul
12/8	Niagara
12/12	at Cincinnati
12/19	Southeast Missouri
12/29	Butler
12/31	Providence
1/2	Creighton
1/7	at St. John’s
1/9	at Seton Hall
1/15	at Connecticut
1/21	Marquette
1/23	DePaul
1/28	at Georgetown
1/30	at Villanova
2/4	Seton Hall
2/6	St. John’s
2/11	at Creighton
2/13	at Providence
2/18	Connecticut
2/20	at Butler
2/25	Georgetown
2/27	Villanova



2021-22 Women’s Team Roster

Number	Name	Year	Position	Height	Hometown	Coaching Staff
0	Shelby Calhoun	Sophomore	Guard	5’11”	Louisville, Ky.	Head Coach: Melanie Moore (Third season)
1	Nia Clark	Sophomore (RS)	Guard	5’9”	Indianapolis	
2	Mikayla Hayes	Grad Student	Center	6’3”	Minneapolis	
3	Taylor Smith	Senior	Guard	5’8”	Marietta, Ga.	Associate Head Coach/Recruiting Coordinator:Candice Finley
10	Shaila Beeler	Junior	Guard	5’7”	Indianapolis	
11	Kae Satterfield	Junior	Guard	6’0”	New York	Assistant Coach: Lester Rowe
12	Kaysia Woods	Freshman	Guard	6’0”	Lincoln, Neb.	
15	Mackayla Scarlett	Sophomore	Guard	5’10”	New York	Assistant Coach: Molly Bateman
22	Kaybriana Hallman	Freshman	Forward	6’2”	Grand Rapids, Mich.	
23	Aanaya Harris	Freshman	Guard/Forward	5’11”	Omaha, Neb.	Assistant Athletic Director for Women’s Basketball: Becca Bornhorst
30	Courtney Prenger	Junior	Forward	6’1”	Minster, Ohio	
31	Megan Harkey	Sophomore	Forward/Center	6’6”	Summerfield, N.C.	
44	Ayanna Townsend	Junior (RS)	Forward	6’2”	Pittsburgh	

UConn poised to dominate league

BY SPENCER TRACY
Staff Writer

The Xavier women's Basketball team had an abysmal season last year, winning only two games in Big East play.

With key returning players Nia Clark and Kae Satterfield and a Xavier crowd in Cintas this season, the team hopes to improve this season and make a push for the Big East title.

The Musketeers also brought in seven newcomers, which added an element of the unknown after being picked to finish 11th in the Big East preseason poll. Breaking down each conference opponent, these are the teams Xavier will face in conference play.

UConn finished last season 28-2, 18-0 in the Big East and won the Big East Championship. They're the favorite to repeat behind sophomore superstar guard Paige Bueckers. She is coming off an incredible season, dropping 20 points per game and winning Freshman of the Year and Big East Player of the Year.

Marquette will look to repeat the great season they had, falling second behind UConn and losing in a heartbreaker in the first round of the NCAA Tournament to Virginia Tech. Beginning to rebuild their program behind 2020 Big East Coach of the



Newswire photo by Desmond Fischer

Xavier will look to surprise some people this season in conference play after being picked to finish 10th in the preseason coaches poll. The Musketeers add seven newcomers alongside some key returners.

Year Megan Duffy, Marquette will need another successful season to keep the program moving in the right direction. Xavier travels to Marquette to open up Big East play on Dec. 3.

The Villanova Wildcats had an impressive season behind first-year Head Coach Denise Dillon, going 17-7 and 9-5 in the Big East. The team was truly led by junior sensation Maddy Siegrist, who averaged 22.8 points and 9.8 rebounds per game. Besides Siegrist and two other starters, the only other Wildcats returning averaged under nine points which will hurt their depth.

The Seton Hall Pirates are one of few teams that can give UConn a run for their money. All of Seton Hall's top scorers are returning, including Andra Espinoza-Hunter, who

averaged over 18 points and grabbed over six rebounds per game, all while shooting over 39% from beyond the three-point line.

Similar to Seton Hall, DePaul has their top five scorers returning to the court. Sonya Morris stands out the most, as she averaged 19.3 points and shot 43% behind the arc last season. Dual-threat Lexi Held has the ability to drop 17 points while also adding a total of 75 steals last season, making her eighth in the country.

Creighton had a below-average season last year, finishing 10-12. The strength of this team is their returning upperclassman. Despite some of their juniors last season underperforming, Creighton still has the roster talent and experience to compete against Big East teams. Emma Ron-

siek is the player to watch coming off an impressive sophomore season, finishing second on the team in scoring last season.

The St. John's Red Storm is a team Xavier must beat in order to improve last season's record. St. John's, similar to Xavier last season, were outscored, rebounded and defended all season long resulting in four conference and eight total wins. With their top three players returning, the Red Storm have some hope to turn their season around this year; however, they are not projected to make a massive leap.

Providence underperformed with just four conference wins last season, and they were plagued with turnovers and poor defense. However, the Friars added Tennessee State graduate

transfer Andreana Wister, who averaged 14.5 points per game last season, 10 more points than her junior season. The Friars and Head Coach Jim Crowley will look for a similar performance from Wister this season.

Butler only won three games last season, and the league's coaches don't think much higher of the Bulldogs this year, as they were picked to finish last in the Big East in the preseason poll.

Butler will be aided by the return of junior guard Oumou Toure, who missed all of last season after averaging 9.1 points, 6.1 rebounds and a Big East-high 2.3 steals per game as a freshman.

The pandemic didn't help Georgetown last season, as their first seven games were canceled due to COVID-19. The Hoyas finished with just two wins last year and will look to improve their shooting in hopes of a better season this year.

Outside of UConn, the Big East looks to be pretty open this season. Xavier will hope to finish in the middle of the conference and make some noise in the Big East Tournament.

If the Musketeers do so, then they could build positive momentum on the court and on the recruiting trail.

Musketeers to play in NIT Season Tip-Off Tournament

BY JOE CLARK
Sports Editor

On Nov. 24 and Nov. 26, Xavier men's basketball will participate in the National Invitational Tournament (NIT) Season Tip-Off Tournament at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

Xavier's first game on Nov. 24 will be against Iowa State, who will be playing under first-year Head Coach T.J. Otzelberger. Iowa State has already experienced difficulties early in the season with sophomore center Xavier Foster being dismissed from the program.

If they want to have a successful season, the Cyclones will rely heavily on Minnesota transfer guard Gabe Kalscheur and Penn State transfer guard Izaiah Brockington, as well junior guard Blake Hinson.

In the other matchup, Memphis will take on Virginia Tech. If Xavier wins, they'll play the winner of that matchup, and if they lose, they'll take on the loser.

Virginia Tech is led by senior forward Keve Aluma, and he'll be joined by Wofford transfer Storm Murphy and senior forward Justyn Mutts as key contributors for the Hokies.

On paper, Memphis has



Newswire photo by Desmond Fischer

Xavier Head Coach Travis Steele will look to get the Musketeers off on the right foot during the NIT Season Tip-Off the week of Thanksgiving.

one of the most talented rosters in the country under Head Coach Penny Hardaway.

Freshmen Emoni Bates and Jalen Duren form one of the best duos in the country, and the two of them are joined by a plethora of talent. Senior Tyler Harris, redshirt junior Landers Nolley and sophomore Earl Timberlake all will be expected to play big minutes and contribute for Memphis.

Beating either Memphis or Virginia Tech will be a

tall task for Xavier, especially with the expected absence of junior forward Zach Freemantle due to a foot injury. It's realistic to expect Xavier will beat Iowa State before falling in the finals to either one of those teams.

The tournament will be a good test for the Musketeers to see how they stack up to some of the best teams in the country and get ready for later non-conference games at Oklahoma State and against Cincinnati.

2021-22 Staff Predictions

BY NEWswire STAFF

Joe Clark: Every time I've done a prediction, I wrote about what I thought the best-case scenario would be. I'm taking a less optimistic approach this year. I think the Musketeers will be 8-3 in the non-conference slate with losses to Ohio State, Memphis and Oklahoma State.

With three non-conference losses, Xavier will have to do some damage in conference play to be safely in the tournament field. I think that's exactly what will happen, with a 14-6 conference record to finish the season 22-9. With two wins in the Big East Tournament, I think that would net the Musketeers an eight seed in the NCAA Tournament. From there, they'll lose in the second round to No. 1 seed Texas. It'll be a close game, but Texas guard Marcus Carr will hit a three with just over two seconds left to clinch a 76-73 victory. Paul Scruggs will be a finalist for the Bob Cousy Award, and he'll be on the All-Big East First Team along with Colby Jones. Zach Freemantle will finish on the Big East second team.

Joe Laurich: Xavier finishes with a non-conference record of 8-3 and a conference record of 13-7, which will place them fourth in the conference. They'll be a 10 seed in the NCAA Tournament and lose after making a Sweet 16 run. Colby Jones will be

the team MVP, while Dieon-te Miles will be the biggest surprise in a breakout season playing major minutes.

Avery Strychasz: Xavier will win 21 games and make it to the NCAA Tournament.

Owen Miguel: Xavier will not make the tournament, but Paul Scruggs will have a strong season.

Jake Geiger: Xavier will go 23-8, lose in the Big East Tournament Championship and make a Sweet 16 appearance before losing.

Kate Ferrell: Xavier will go on strike and they'll form a boy band called the Backstreet Baller.

Grace Hamilton: Xavier will go on a Cinderella Elite Eight run.

Spencer Tracy: Xavier will lose in the Big East Tournament Championship game, make the tournament, and lose in the second round.

Emily Croft: Xavier will make the tournament and lose in the Sweet 16, but Cesare Edwards will play a major role as a freshman.

Grady Boris: Xavier will finish second or third in the Big East and make the NCAA Tournament as a 9-11 seed

Hunter Ellis: They'll miss the tournament again, and Travis Steele will be on the hot seat heading into the off-season.

Griffin Brammer: They'll win!

2021 recruiting class looks strong

By Joe Laurich
Staff Writer

After back-to-back successful recruiting classes, the 2021 class was predicted to be smaller, with a focus on forwards and centers. Xavier did just that, bringing in two bigs in Cesare Edwards and Elijah Tucker.

Xavier lost big men Jason Carter, Bryan Griffin and Daniel Ramsey from last season's team and have already lost Big East first-teamer Zach Freemantle for the first few weeks of the season due to a stress fracture in his foot.

The 2021 recruiting process was a difficult one, as coaches had to do almost all of their scouting online since in-person recruiting was not allowed due to COVID-19. This also meant a lot of players had to decide where to spend their college careers without ever stepping on a college campus.

The class of Edwards and Tucker was ranked 53rd in the country by 247 Sports.

The first commit in the 2021 recruiting class was Cesare Edwards out of Hartsville, S.C., where he attended Hartsville High School.

Edwards is 6-foot-10 220 pounds and was ranked the 109th best player overall and



Newswire photo by Desmond Fischer

Freshmen Cesare Edwards and Elijah Tucker both came to Xavier as top-150 recruits. While Tucker will redshirt this season, Edwards will look to play and develop behind Jack Nunge, Zach Freemantle and Dieonte Miles.

the 16th best center in the class. Edwards chose Xavier over a list of other schools including Florida, Florida State, Clemson and others.

His ability to finish in the paint will immediately stand out.

Edwards also brings the ability to space the floor be-

cause of his strength from three-point range, where he shot 37% last season. His senior year at Hartsville, Edwards averaged 17.2 points, 15 rebounds, two assists, and three blocks per game.

Edwards has already put on 15 pounds since coming to Xavier and is looking to

add more weight to compete against the Big East's physical centers.

Recently on the Travis Steele Radio Show, Steele said Edwards could be looking like Marquette's old bruising center Theo John by the end of his Xavier career. Look for Edwards to provide front-

court depth off the bench for the Musketeers as he continues to develop on both sides of the ball.

The second commit in Xavier's 2021 class was Elijah Tucker. Tucker is from Canton Ga., where he attended Cherokee High School. Tucker is 6-foot-7 and 214 pounds, and was ranked the 118th best overall player and the 23rd best power forward in the class.

He chose Xavier over St. Johns, Iowa and Georgia Tech. Tucker's strengths include a very good midrange game, developing quickness and athleticism, the ability to defend at a very high level and an extremely high basketball IQ.

During his senior year at Cherokee, Tucker put up 21.3 points and 7.4 rebounds per game along with 86 dunks in 28 games.

The Xavier coaches had high expectations for Tucker coming in after a tremendous senior year. Unfortunately, an illness kept him out of summer workouts, and he is now redshirting this season as a result.

Look for him to make an immediate impact playing next season as a redshirt freshman.

Pelicans' Naji Marshall strives to excel in the NBA

By Will Pembroke
Show Manager

In the unlikely event that you've been living under a rock for the past month, the NBA season has begun. This season will mark the first time in two years the league is able to start on schedule with fans, thanks to loosening COVID-19 restrictions across the country.

As a university, Xavier has shown an ability to produce NBA level talent on a relatively consistent basis.

Arguably the most famous Xavier alumni who has made it to the league is retired forward and NBA champion David West.

Other notable Musketeers who have spent time in the NBA are James Posey, Jordan Crawford, Semaj Christon, J.P. Macura, Trevon Bluiett, Edmond Sumner and Naji Marshall. The final two on that list, Sumner and Marshall, played significant roles on their respective teams last season.

Sumner played his way into a starting role in the Indiana Pacers guard rotation last year, averaging 7.5 points on over 50% shooting from the field and just under 40% from three.

Unfortunately, Sumner tore his left Achilles before the season started and is unlikely to play at any point this year,



Newswire photo by Desmond Fischer

Former Xavier forward Naji Marshall has struggled in his sophomore season with the New Orleans Pelicans after showing flashes of promise during his rookie year. Marshall signed a multi-year contract this offseason.

as he was waived after being traded to the Brooklyn Nets. Marshall, on the other hand,

has played in all seven of the New Orleans Pelicans games thus far, seeing regular time

off their bench.

Playing around 13 minutes per game so far this season,

Marshall has struggled to be productive. He is shooting an abysmal 24% from the floor and has yet to make a three-point field goal this season.

Marshall's minutes are down roughly a third from last season in large part due to his offensive struggles. In terms of defense, Naji's 108.7 defensive rating is currently sitting just above the league average of 112.3, so that's at least something for him to hang his hat on.

Although the sample size of seven games is small, Marshall is at risk of losing more playing time if things don't get better on the offensive end.

Last season, Marshall showed flashes of offensive utility, averaging 7.7 points per game and shooting nearly 35% from the perimeter.

As he is currently playing on a Pelicans team without their best player in Zion Williamson, now is the time for Marshall to shine if he wants to solidify his spot in the rotation. Marshall needs to show the shooting and defensive prowess he did last season to stick around in New Orleans.

After signing a multi-year contract at the end of last season, it is time for Marshall to prove himself to the Pelicans along with the rest of the NBA as the electric two-way wing we came to know him as at Xavier.

Men's Big East Conference outlook

Xavier will look to finish near the top of the Big East with their core returners

By JUSTIN MALONE
Staff Writer

The Xavier men's basketball team hopes to rebound from last season's disappointing seventh-place finish in the Big East and first-round loss to Butler in the Big East Tournament. This year, Xavier was selected to finish third in the Big East Preseason Coaches' Poll.

Xavier brings back their top seven scorers under fourth-year Head Coach Travis Steele. This includes junior Zach Freemantle, a Preseason All-Big East First Team member who led the Musketeers with 16.1 points and 8.9 rebounds per game last year.

Xavier also brings back senior Ben Stanley along with fifth-year players Nate Johnson and Paul Scruggs, another Preseason All-Big East First Team pick who averaged 14.1 points per game last season.

The Villanova Wildcats were chosen to finish first in the Big East Preseason Coaches' Poll and have a top-five AP poll preseason ranking. After falling in the Sweet 16 to Baylor last year, they hope to complete unfinished

business under the leadership of Head Coach Jay Wright.

Notable returners for the Wildcats include fifth-year star point guard and Preseason Big East Player of the Year Collin Gillespie, who averaged 14 points and 4.6 assists last season; fifth-year forward Jermaine Samuels, a Preseason All-Big East Second Team pick who scored 12 points per game; and junior Justin Moore, another Preseason All-Big East Second Team selection.

Challenging the Wildcats for the Big East title are the University of Connecticut Huskies, picked to finish second in the Big East Preseason Coaches' Poll.

Coming off a third-place Big East finish with an 11-6 conference record under Dan Hurley and an NCAA Tournament bid, the Huskies are looking strong with returning graduate student guard R.J. Cole and senior guard Tyrese Martin.

Look for these players to have an increased role with the departure of James Bouknight, who averaged 18.7 points and 5.7 rebounds per game. Bouknight was a first-round pick in the 2021

NBA draft, and he will be difficult to replace for the Huskies.

Behind Xavier, the St. John's Red Storm was selected to finish fourth and has two of the conference's best players in Preseason Big East First All-Team selection: Julian Champagnie, who led the Big East in scoring with 19.8 points per game, and sophomore guard Posh Alexander, last year's Big East Freshman of the Year with 10.9 points per game. However, they may struggle after losing five of their top seven scorers from last year. They did bring in Purdue transfer Aaron Wheeler, who will be key.

The Seton Hall Pirates bring back four of their top six scorers, including center Ike Obiagu, senior forward Jared Rhoden, a Preseason All-Big East First Team member; and fifth-year wing Myles Cale.

It will be a difficult task to replace Sandro Mamukelashvili, who led the Pirates in scoring with 17.5 points per game last year, but the Pirates have chances to do so.

Butler, selected for sixth place, brings back ten of its top eleven scorers from last season, with five double-figure

scorers. These scorers include sophomore guard Chuck Harris (12.9 points per game), forward Bryce Nze (11.9 points per game) and Bryce Golden (10.4 points per game). Butler hopes to improve their balance of talent to succeed in the conference.

The Providence Friars were chosen to finish seventh. They believe senior center Nate Watson can step up in a big way, after being third in scoring in the conference last year (16.9 points per game) and with the departure of David Duke. Justin Minaya and A.J. Reeves should also make an impact.

Creighton was selected to finish eighth and will significantly struggle with the loss of all five starters from their 22-9 season last year. However, they will have to rely on their seven freshmen recruits, as well as reserves Ryan Kalkbrenner and Alex O'Connell.

The Marquette Golden Eagles are led by new Head Coach Shaka Smart, who will rely on a brand-new roster including top-100 guard Steve Mitchell and sophomore returners forward Justin Lewis and guard Greg Elliott. As a result, this team was selected

for the ninth spot and will most likely face a difficult year ahead.

The Patrick Ewing-led Georgetown Hoyas were picked to finish tenth in the Preseason Big East Coaches' Poll, despite an underdog Big East championship last season.

Look out for freshman and five-star recruit Aminu Mohammed, a McDonald's All-American guard. Mohammed is expected to make an immediate impact with players like sophomore guard Dante Harris, the Big East Tournament's Most Outstanding Player, on a squad that lost several key players and leadership.

Rounding out the conference is the DePaul Blue Demons, who are positioned to finish in eleventh place in the Big East.

The team is looking to rebuild under new Head Coach Tony Stubblefield and will rely on senior Javon Freeman-Liberty and junior center Nick Ongenda for this season, along with sophomore Jalen Terry.

The Musketeers begin conference play against Marquette on Dec. 18.

Gonzaga and Dayton to the Big East? It's possible

By JOE CLARK
Sports Editor

Realignment has once again taken over college athletics, with Texas and Oklahoma leaving the Big 12 to join the SEC and BYU, Cincinnati, Central Florida and Houston joining the Big 12.

To replace them, the American Athletic Conference added Florida Atlantic, Charlotte, Rice, North Texas, Alabama-Birmingham and Texas-San Antonio, which puts the future of Conference USA in question. Anytime realignment comes up, the Big East is mentioned because of its status as a premier basketball-only conference.

Invariably, questions arise as to whether the Big East could expand further, even after bringing UConn back to the conference last year. Ultimately, it's likely the Big East stays as is, but here are some avenues for expansion if the Big East decides to go that route.

The number one option for a school to join the league is Gonzaga. With BYU leaving the West Coast Conference (WCC) for basketball, Gonzaga loses its biggest conference threat and a school that raised the profile of the WCC.

As a basketball-only school, Gonzaga seemingly fits well in the Big East — except, the school is located in Spokane,



Photo courtesy of flickr.org

Following BYU's departure to the Big 12, Gonzaga could be looking for a new conference. The Big East could be the future home of the school, as their focus on basketball coupled with their success makes them an ideal fit.

Wash. The Big East didn't mind expanding to the Midwest when it came time for them to form a new conference in 2013, but that far west can cause travel and tip-time problems.

If the Big East was going to add Gonzaga, it would have to be through a major expansion that broke the conference up into leagues. The Big East

could add Gonzaga, along with St. Mary's, San Francisco and Loyola-Marymount (gutting the WCC in the process) and make a Big East West subdivision.

While St. Mary's has historically been successful, it's unclear if it would be worth adding Gonzaga to take on San Francisco and Loyola-Marymount (LMU). While they

are improving programs, it's undeniable that San Francisco and LMU are significantly worse than the rest of the conference. That's a concern that the league would have to consider.

You don't need to add those schools in conjunction with Gonzaga, but ultimately it would make the most sense logistically to give Gonzaga

regional opponents.

The only other expansion option that would truly be intriguing is adding Kansas. While the Jayhawks still sponsor FBS football, they aren't good at all and could follow UConn in dropping their football program to independent. Financially and on the field, the Big 12 is worse off without Texas and Oklahoma, and Kansas could be looking for a way out of the new Big 12.

The Big East could be the perfect fit as a school that prioritizes basketball, and the geographic fit makes sense. If Kansas leaves, I think it'll be for the Big 10, but it's worth a call if the Big East decides to expand.

Other expansion options include the usual suspects: Dayton, VCU, Wichita State, Rhode Island and Loyola-Chicago. All could be potential fits in the conference, but outside of maybe Loyola-Chicago, none of those schools significantly raise the conference's profile.

If the Big East is going to expand, it's likely going to be for a big fish in the form of Gonzaga or Kansas, or another similarly basketball-focused school.

For now, though, let's just enjoy watching the greatest conference in the world take the floor for what should be another exciting college basketball season.

XU to add two top recruits in 2022

By JOE LAURICH
Staff Writer

Looking forward to the class of 2022, Travis Steele and staff have already added two players in Kam Craft and Tyrell Ward — and potentially a third that Steele hinted at during his weekly radio show.

Leaving the team next year are guards Paul Scruggs and Nate Johnson for sure. It's possible Adam Kunkel and Ben Stanley join them, depending on whether they want to stay and use their extra year of COVID-19 eligibility.

One theme that really stands out with this class is versatility; the coaching staff is taking a Jay Wright-esque approach and moving towards positionless basketball.

These recruits are tall and athletic enough to play any position 1-4 offensively and not have any problem on the defensive end. Steele expects to have three recruits committed in the early signing period in two weeks, so be on the lookout for one more player to join an already-illustrious class.

The first recruit who pledged to the Musketeers was Kam Craft out of Buffalo Grove, Ill. The 6'5", 180-pound guard is ranked 87th in the class of 2022, but expect that ranking to shoot way up after the way he has been playing for The Skill Factory so far this season.

Craft played for Buffalo Grove High School his junior year where he averaged 27 points, seven rebounds, three assists and three steals per game while shooting 41%



Newswire photo by Desmond Fischer

Xavier will be bolstered next season by the additions of Tyrell Ward and Kam Craft. The Musketeers are also looking to add freshman guard Desmond Claude, a player out of Oakdale, Conn.

from three. Craft is known for his extremely good three-point shooting, his basketball IQ, and his ability to run in transition.

Over the summer at the

Peach Jam, the biggest Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) tournament of the year, Craft averaged 20 points and six rebounds against the top high school players in the country.

After his AAU season, Craft transferred to The Skill Factory where he is playing for former Xavier Director of Basketball Operations Trey Scotti. Expect a big senior

season out of Craft as he cements himself as one of the best shooters in the class.

The next player to commit to Xavier was Tyrell Ward, out of one of the top basketball high schools in the country, DeMatha High School in Hyattsville, Md. Ward is a player that can truly do it all, and at 6'7" and 185 pounds, he has the handles to run the point (which he did during the AAU season) and play the 4 with his noticeable athleticism.

Ward is ranked 48th overall by 247 and chose Xavier over top college programs like Indiana, Louisville, and Virginia. Ward's ability to drive is what sets him apart from other players, and as his confidence in his shot grows, so will his ranking.

At Peach Jam, playing for Boo Williams, Ward put up 23.2 points per game and 6.8 rebounds per game. He also played phenomenal defense against some of the best offensive high school players. Look for Ward to add some more muscle to his wiry frame and become an even more dominant all-around player.

During Steele's weekly radio show on Monday night, he talked about the recruitment of Desmond Claude.

Claude is a guard out of Oakdale, Conn. whom Xavier has been recruiting hard since the summer. He's the only recruit Xavier has a serious chance with in the 2022 class, and Steele seemed confident about Xavier's chances to nab him and add to Xavier's guard depth.

Ranking the top-five mascots across the Big East

By JOE CLARK
Sports Editor

The Big East is known for having some iconic/scary mascots throughout its tenure. On a strictly personal level, I wanted to rank my favorites. It was a difficult task, but here are my five favorite Big East mascots.

5. Creighton

I like the Bluejay. It's simple, has a nice color scheme and it's everything that a mascot should be. Just fun enough, and just scary enough to succeed.

4. Seton Hall

The Pirate looks like a fun guy to have a drink or two with at some dive bar in South Orange, so for that reason, he makes the list.

3. St. John's

St. John's mascot's name is Johnny Thunderbird, which might be the coolest name I've ever heard. Johnny Thunderbird is definitely the nickname of some guy with slicked back hair who drives his Harley to school everyday

in a bad 80's movie.

The iconic image of Johnny Thunderbird sitting sadly in Madison Square Garden after the Big East Tournament was canceled in 2020 perfectly encapsulated my feelings at the time, so I have a bit of a soft spot for him. I might just start a Johnny Thunderbird fan club.

2. Providence

I unironically love Friar Dom. I can't believe it crossed anyone's mind at some point in time to go: "You know, a Dominican Friar with no eyebrows and dead, lifeless eyes is the perfect mascot to attract young fans!" Somehow, the current iteration of Friar Dom isn't *that* scary compared to some of his predecessors, but if I saw that guy in a nightmare, I'd run the other way as fast as I could.

If you look up Friar Dom, numerous articles exist about just how terrifying he is. I feel bad for him. He probably has a good heart. He is a priest, after all, and he is vilified just for his lack of eyebrows and emotionless face. Friar Dom,

I love you.

1. Xavier

I'm writing this article in *NewsWire*, I'm obviously going to rank Xavier No. 1. I'm more partial to the Blue Blob than D'Artagnan, but I'm sticking with primary mascots for this ranking, so for that sake, let's break down D'Artagnan.

For starters, his name is incredibly hard to say if you haven't read *The Three Musketeers* and try to pronounce it phonetically (trust me, I know from experience.) But he also has a sick mustache that must have taken a lot of time and effort to grow out, and he wears a really cool hat.

If I'm going to battle with any of these mascots, D'Artagnan is who I want by my side because he's literally always packing heat. There's no other reason for him to have boots that are so comically large.

In conclusion, he just exudes cool. D'Artagnan is the man, and he is definitely the coolest mascot in the Big East.



Newswire photo by Desmond Fischer



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Two of the best mascots in the Big East, Friar Dom and D'Artagnan from Providence and Xavier. Both of them will make you laugh and cry.



Aries: Halloween may be over, but expect Cincinnati to be spooky for a while longer. We just elected a mayor whose last name is literally “Pure Evil.”



Taurus: That class you just registered for is just like Chris Pratt voicing Garfield: a terrible pick.



Gemini: Don’t feel depressed. You have plenty of reasons to live; you haven’t even read my *Alvin and the Chipmunks* fanfiction where they’re in a throuple yet.



Cancer: If you ever feel unloved, just remember that the FBI agents who are constantly watching you sold their 24/7 footage of your life to Brazil, where it is a very popular tele-novela entitled “*A Virgem Feia*.”



Leo: Quick tip: next time your refrigerator is busted, simply store all your food in Alter Hall. It’s actually as cold, if not colder.



Virgo: It can be hard to tell how healthy your headspace is, so here’s a quick test: Have you used TikTok in the last 24 hours? If so, you are mentally unwell.



Libra: If your bro sends you memes on Instagram, that’s not your bro. That’s your future husband right there. Give ‘em a smooch.



Scorpio: Your birthday is coming up, so happy birthday! Unless, of course, you are an October Scorpio, in which case you aren’t a true Scorpio; you’re just a poser Libra.



Sagittarius: The liberal elite of Xavier don’t want you to know this, but the squirrels on campus are free. You are allowed to take one home to keep as a friend.



Capricorn: If you live in Brockman, you are going to Hell. I’m sorry, I don’t make the rules.



Aquarius: Your week is going to be like any SAC event: You’ll run into people you haven’t seen since Manresa, someone will give you free Raising Cane’s and it’ll only be fun for the first 20 minutes.



Pisces: Try a new skill. You may be multi-talented like Ringo Starr, who is not only a legendary drummer, but also an MS Paint savant. Take a look:



Via ringostarrart.com

THE BASQUIDBALL GAME

BY TREVOR TIEMEYER
Staff Writers

Being a rookie in the NBA, it is rather difficult to make your mark and get sponsorships. Well, not anymore — thanks to a new hit series brought to you by Under Armour. I present to you: the BaSQUIDball Games. This week-long competition will feature five death-defying games, where the final winner will receive a full sponsorship and be the new spokesperson for Under Armour. The games will feature contestants including Chris Duarte, Jonathan Kuminga, Josh Giddey and any other rookies who were too boring to get a sponsorship. Contestants will be selected based on need and their ability to waste money at an accelerated rate.

Here are the games:

Around the Armour: It’s like Around the World, but it’s around the Under Armour logo (key brand placement). You must make a shot from all eight outside corners within five minutes to continue. Any player who fails to complete the task will be eliminated.


Dribble Limbo: Contestants will limbo while dribbling the ball. Each contestant will have to pass through four times, with each time getting more and more difficult. Any limbo violations, or failure to dribble the ball, will constitute automatic elimination from the games.

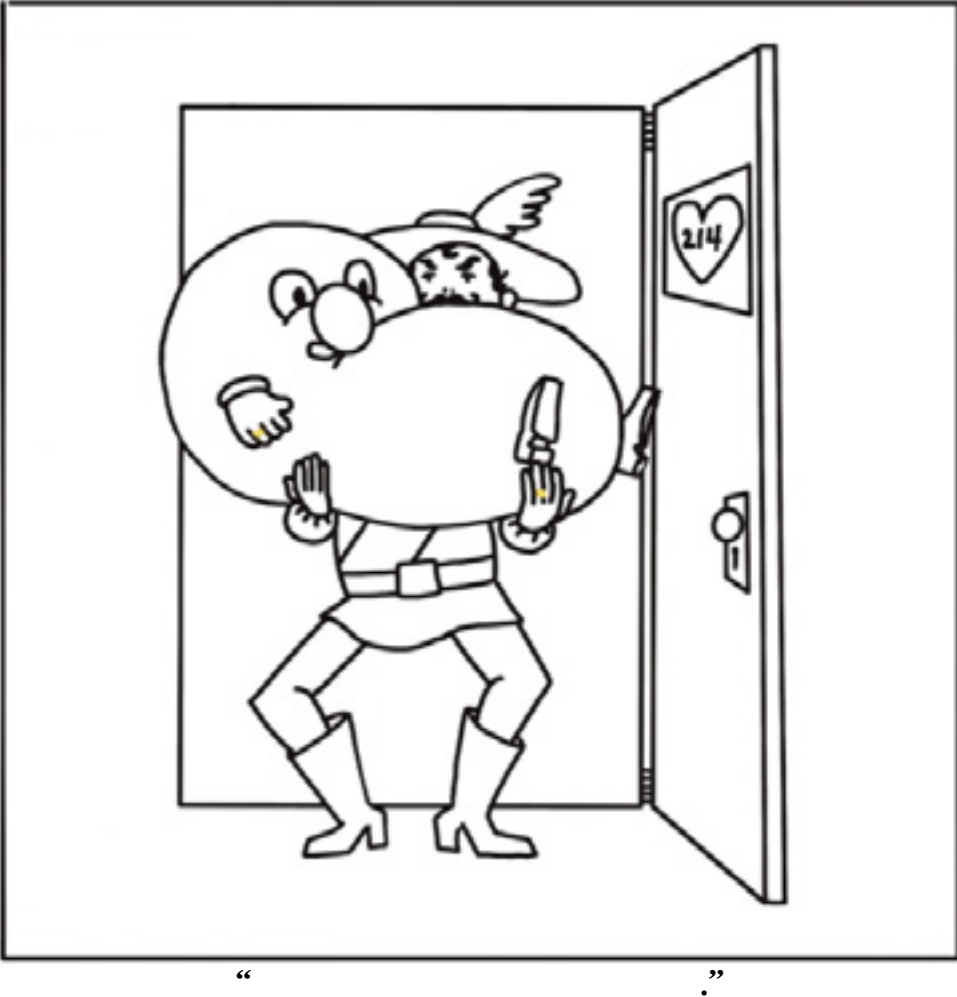
Knockout: Contestants will compete in a traditional game of “Knockout.” Contestants’ courts will be based on the corresponding symbol they choose. There will be six symbols. Symbols include a basketball, whistle, backboard and more. The winner of each game will move on to the final challenge. If you are caught out, the guards will act accordingly.

SQUID: Firstly, you pick a trusted partner and friend, and then you head on out to pick your court. It’s like a game of PIG, but instead you have five mistakes. Each mistake you make, you lose a finger of your choice. First one to spell “SQUID,” dies.

I Will: The final challenge. It will be an every-man-for-himself battle royale on the court — one-on-one-on-one. There are no fouls; anything goes. First to 11 points wins the sponsorship, and the others are eliminated. Before this final game, each contestant will be fed a five-course meal, and they may keep anything from the meal — namely, a knife.

The final winner shall receive a full sponsorship from Under Armour and will be the newest spokesperson for the company.





COMIC
CAPTION
CONTEST
BY GRIFFIN BRAMMER
Digital Communications
Manger

Take a look at this comic on the right. Pretty funny, right? It appears D’Artagnan is carrying the Blue Blob into their Honeymoon Suite. How sweet.

However, the comic lacks a caption. What could the Blob be saying to his new husband? Or perhaps D’Artagnan is the one saying something?

It’s up to YOU to think of a funny caption. Submit them to our Instagram, @xavier.newswire to be featured. We’ll also pick one winner who’ll get to pick the theme for the next caption contest. They’ll also get bragging rights, of course.